

What is claimed is:

CLAIMS

1. A method for performing handoff within a mobile communication system,
the mobile communication system having at least one first communication
device for communicating with a plurality of second communication devices
(SCD), comprising the steps of:

6 (a) transmitting from at least one of the SCDs to the first communication device a handoff list of SCDs to which the first communication device is permitted to handoff when in a system access state; and

8 (b) transmitting a channel assignment message to the at least one
communication device from each of the SCDs in the handoff list.

2. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein a channel assignment message transmitted from each SCD in the handoff list includes a channel assignment message to be used only for communicating with the respective transmitting SCD.

3. A method for performing handoff within a mobile communication system,
the mobile communication system having at least one first communication
device for communicating with a plurality of second communication devices
(SCD), comprising the steps of:

(a) transmitting from at least one of the SCDs to the first communication device a handoff list to which the first communication device is permitted to handoff when in a system access state, wherein the handoff list comprises

SCDs controlled by a single controller not located in the at
10 least one first communication device; and

12 (b) transmitting a channel assignment message to the at least
one first communication device from each of the SCDs in the handoff list.

4. The method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 transmitting to the first communication device a neighbor list of SCDs that are
located in the geographic vicinity of the first communication device.

5. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein step (b) is followed by
2 the step of performing a handoff of the first communication device from one of
the SCDs to another one of the SCDs.

6. An apparatus for performing handoff within a mobile
2 communication system, comprising:
a first communication device (FCD);

4 a plurality of second communication devices (SCDs) for
communicating with the FCD, wherein at least one of the SCDs transmits to the
6 FCD a handoff list of other SCDs to which the FCD is permitted to handoff
when in a system access state, and wherein at least one SCD in the handoff list
8 transmits to the FCD a channel assignment message for communicating with
each SCD included in the handoff list.

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7. The apparatus in accordance with claim 6, wherein each SCD in the
2 handoff list separately transmits to the FCD a channel assignment message for
communicating with that respective SCD.
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